

PATENT 0033-0892P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Minehiro KONYA et al.

Conf.:

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Appl. No.:

10/611,871

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Filed:

July 3, 2003

Examiner: UNASSIGNEDO

For:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Technology Center 2600 (SUBMISSION AFTER FILING OF AN APPLICATION BUT BEFORE FINAL REJECTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE OR CONCURRENTLY WITH A RULE 1.114 RCE APPLICATION)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 10, 2003

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicant(s) hereby submit(s) an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on the PTO-1449(s), attached hereto.

II. COPIES (check at least one box)

- a. This application was filed before June 30, 2003. Accordingly, submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.
- b. Main this application was filed on or after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications therefore are not included. Copies of foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are included.

Some or all of the documents listed on the PTO-1449 are not enclosed because they were cited in the International Search Report and copies should already be in the PTO file. If copies are needed, please contact the undersigned.

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

a. DOCUMENTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The patents, publications, or other information listed on the attached PTO 1449 are in the English language and therefore, do not require a statement of relevancy.

b. DOCUMENTS NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications, or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

An English language European Search Report for corresponding application EP 03 01 4861 is enclosed and indicates the relevancy of each document.

c. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SEARCH REPORT

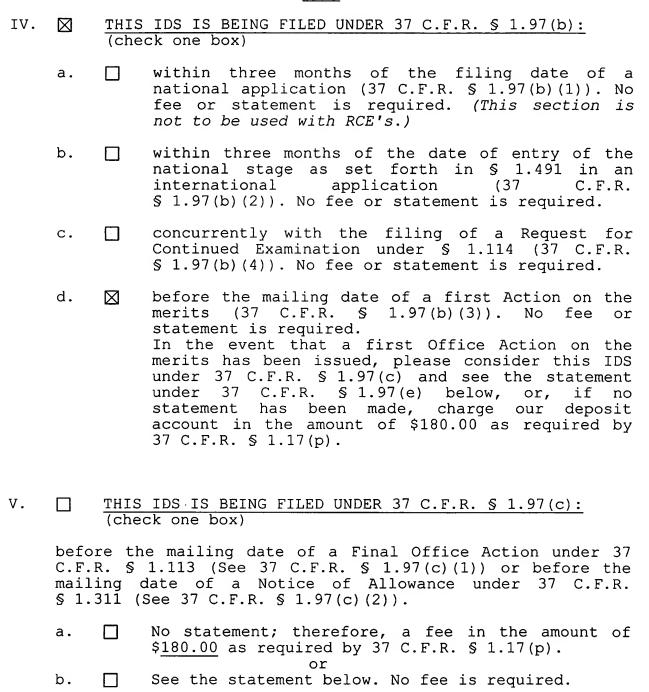
An English language version of the search report or action that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is attached, thereby satisfying the requirement for a concise explanation. See MPEP 609(III)(A)(3).

d. \boxtimes OTHER

The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

JP 2002-77944, JP 10-108152, and JP 2001-09907 were filed with the Information Disclosure Statement for the instant application on July 3, 2003. Applicant asserts that the other references being cited are being cited for the first time. Also enclosed is a copy of the Abstract as modified by the search division for the Examiner's convenience, and as included in the Search Report.

FEES



VI.	STATE	EMENT	UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)				
	The undersigned hereby states that						
	a.		each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or				
	b.		no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS.				
	C.		Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned states that each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby states that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.				
VII.	PAYMENT OF FEES (check one box)						
			eck in the amount of $\frac{$180.00}{1}$ as required by 37 k. $$1.17(p)$ is enclosed for the above-identified				
		amoun	se charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the st required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for the above-cated fee. A triplicate copy of this paper is shed.				
	\boxtimes	No fe	e is required.				

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

Terrell C. Birch Reg. No. 19,382

RW) TCB/RWD/kmr 0033-0892P P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s): ⋈ PTO-1449

□ Documents

□ Foreign Search Report

Fee

○ Other: Abstract as modified by the search division

(Rev. 09/30/03)

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			U	.S. PATENT I	OCUMENTS				
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			FOF	EIGN PATENT	DOCUMENTS				
	Office	DOCUMENT NUMBER	Kind	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANS	LATION NO
	EP	11-008862	, A	1999-01-12	JP			SR	
	EP	10-075432	A	1998-03-17	JP			SR	
	EP	07-182533	A	1995-07-21	JP			SR	
	EP	1 098 498	A	2001-05-09	EP			SR	
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OTHER DOCUMENTS	(Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine,	,
journal, serial, symposium, catalog	, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	
		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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